



Nevada GEAR UP Program – Year Three

Subgrantee: Clark County School District

Name of School: Valley High School
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Valley High School Abstract

Valley High School serves 2,433 ninth through twelfth graders who are ethnically diverse and face unique challenges due to our high transiency rate of 44%. Valley serves a population which is 51% Hispanic, 24% Caucasian, 11% Asian, 14% African-American, and less than 1% Native American. Over 52 languages and 50 countries are represented at Valley.

The following program was developed for ninth graders in the 2004 school year. Valley High School's GEAR UP Program will target approximately 300 ninth graders and place them in smaller learning communities. GEAR UP ninth graders will be assigned mentor teachers and a homeroom of no more than ten students at a time. Homeroom will meet biweekly and attendance and academic progress will be monitored.

Objective One: 80% of participating GEAR UP students will successfully pass all academic classes and matriculate to the next grade with at least a 2.0 GPA. The assistant principal will identify ninth grade students in the GEAR UP Program and place them in classes reduced in size. Teachers will have common planning time to work with the smaller learning community.

Objective Two: By the end of the school year, 80% of the GEAR UP students will have participated in at least two activities relating to career choices and college options. The GEAR UP team of teachers will arrange for monthly guest speakers to speak to GEAR UP teams. The counselor assigned to the GEAR UP students will arrange for six field trips with the culminating field trip being an out of state field trip for students completing three career or college activities, are credit proficient and have a 2.0 grade point average. Success of objective two will be measured by the number of students qualifying for the out of state field trip.

Objective Three: 65% of ninth grade parents will attend one or more of the four GEAR UP parent meetings. Parents will be invited to parent dinners to discuss the GEAR UP Program and issues related to preparing their child for high school graduation, Nevada State Proficiency Exam, college applications and scholarship. Through matching funds parent dinners will include door prizes and raffles to motivate parents to attend. Success will be measured through a database kept by the GEAR UP clerk tracking parent involvement.